1828

258 Market

Dr.

Dyspepsia #16

Paper March 21st 1826

N. K. Lathrop

&c.

Dispersed

by

Henry. Kent. Leahy.

of.

Northumberland Penna

Considering dyspepsia as by far the most complicated, of all the disorders of the digestive function, the frequency of its occurrence, and embarrassing nature, I have been induced to make it the subject of the following remarks, my limited experience will not justify the thought of my being able to add any thing to our present stock of information respecting it, but by availing myself of the experience of others, I trust I shall be enabled to draw from them such matter, and to arrange it, in such a manner, as will at least be of advantage to myself.

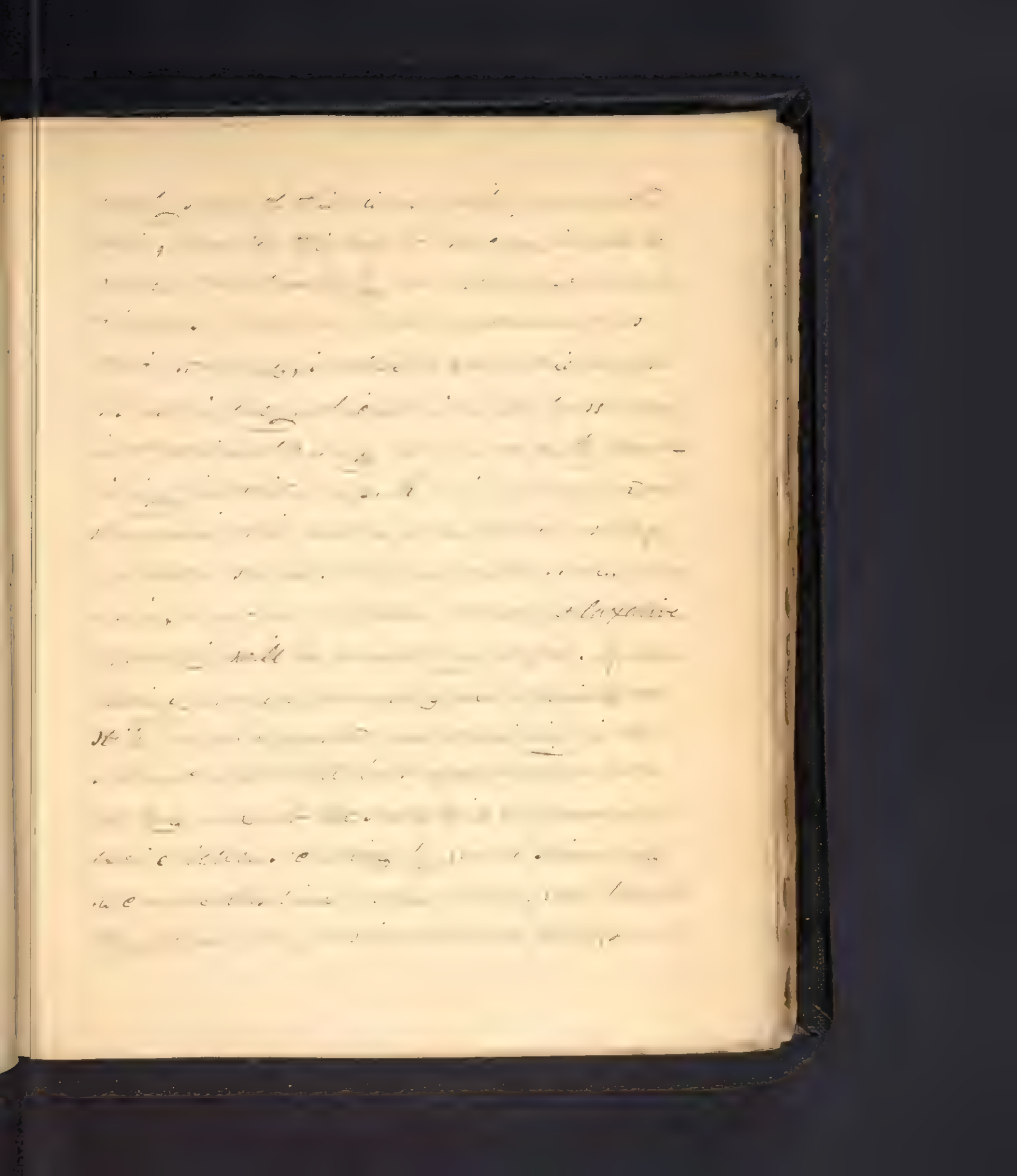
For the description, and mode of treating this disease, I am chiefly indebted to Wilson Philip, and the lectures of professor Chapman.

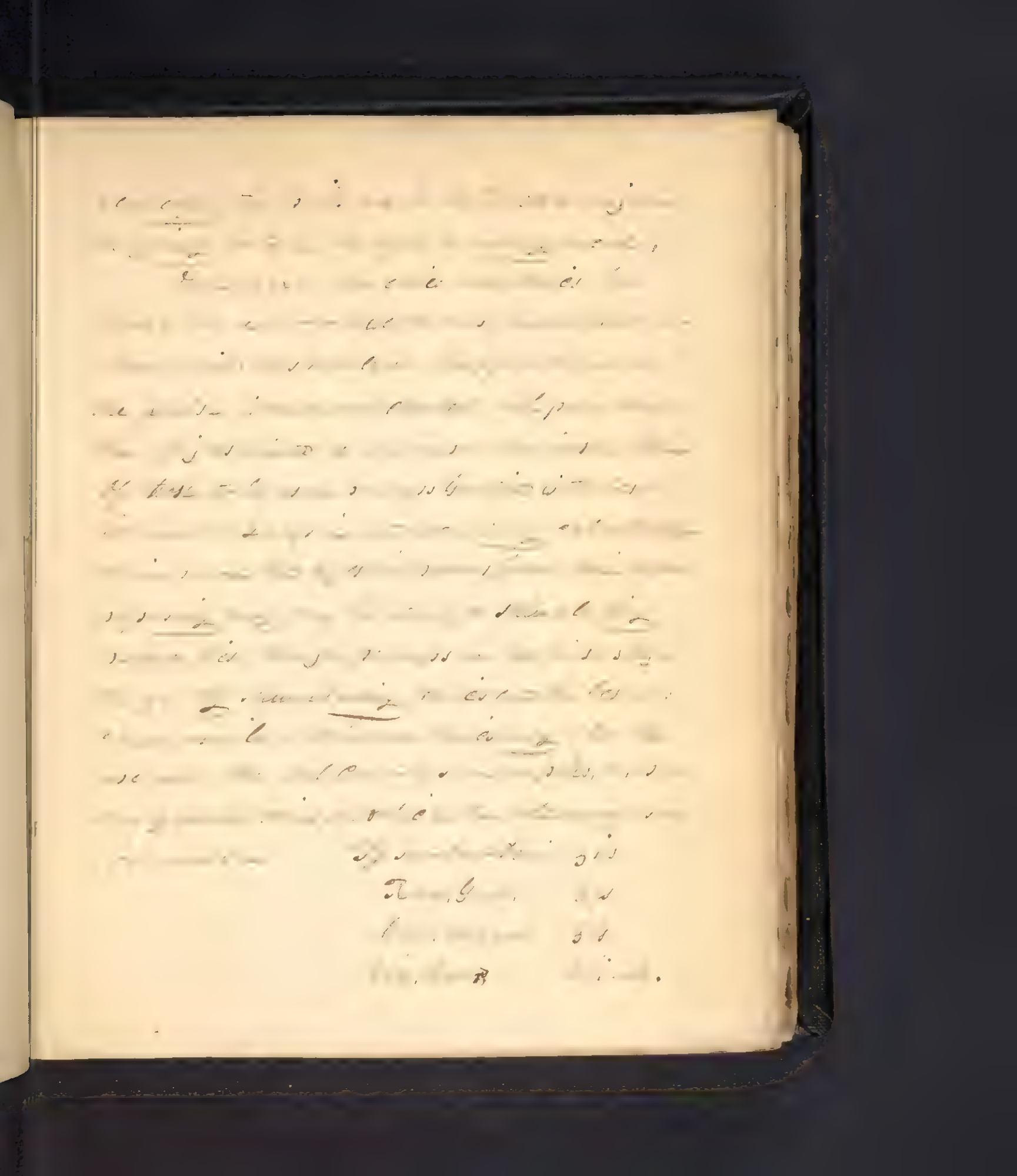
It may be defined, difficult, or depraved digestion,

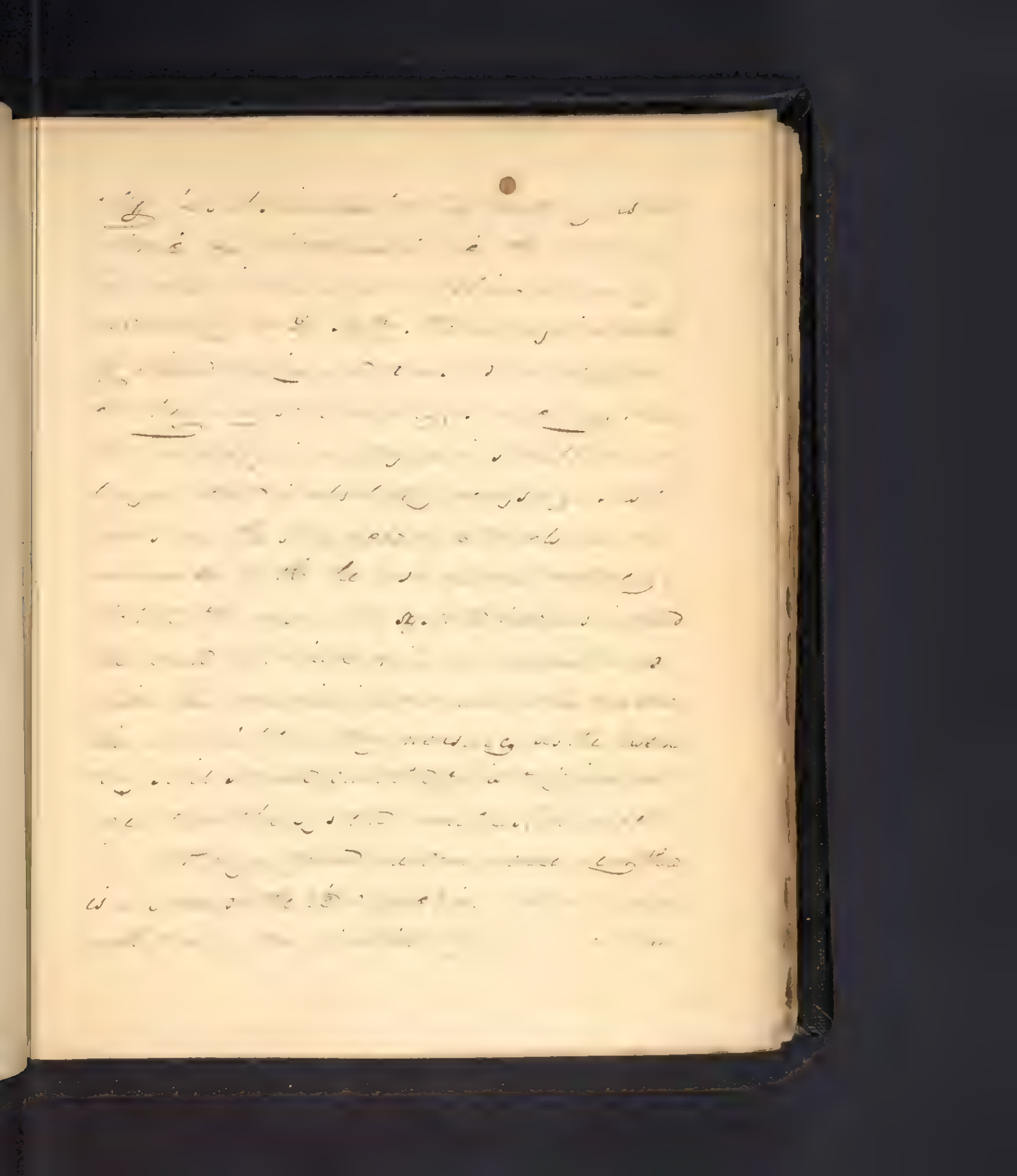
The symptoms in the commencement

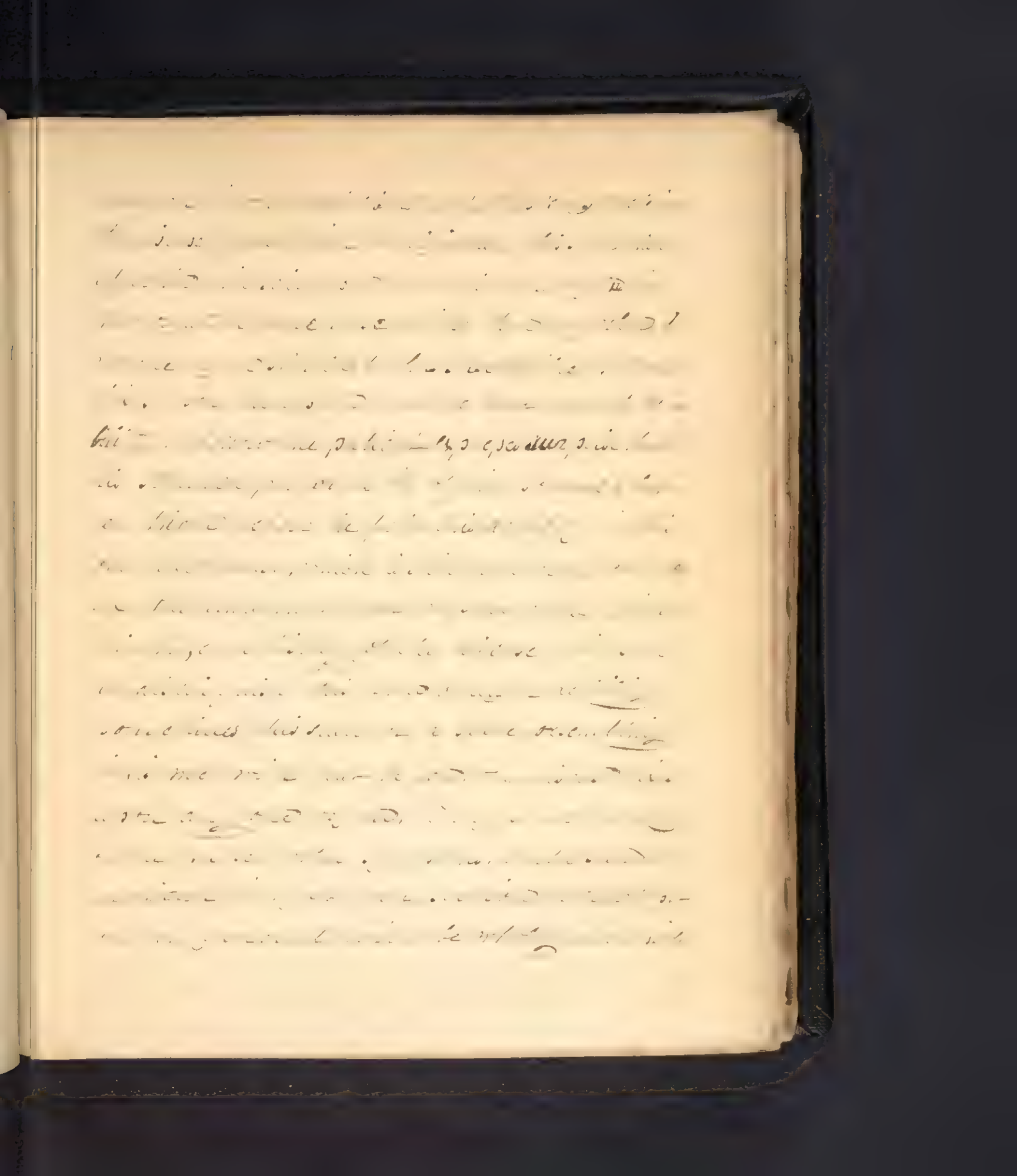
are such as acid fermenting undigested food, viz, sour flatulent, fetid eructations, and of these the patient will often complain, while in every other respect he enjoys good health, thus proving that an affection of the stomach producing feeble or vitiated secretions may exist for a time, without disordering the system. Should these symptoms be suffered to continue any length of time, the affection extends to other parts of the alimentary canal, and their secretions become diminished in quantity, or altered in quality, and the bowels do not act as readily as usual. The following symptoms will indicate this state, the mouth, is clammy, the tongue, especially in the morning is furred, and patient is costive, these symptoms will often yield to some mild aperient and no further attention is paid to what is apparently so light, owing to this inattention there is a recurrence of these symptoms, and

debility, at first only occasional, is complained of. in this the mind participates. the patient becomes incapable of his usual mental efforts. his sleep is irregular and disturbed, though occasionally he enjoys good nights, at all times he feels a desire of drowsiness, and he now becomes alarmed very irritable and dejected. The alvine discharges begin to deviate from their healthy appearance. more probably to diminished or vitiated secretion of bile. being usually either light or dark. this change of colour is ascribed by many to circumstances of diet, and change which the contents of the bowels undergo in their passage through the canal. The irritable enables the mind to debility. The symptoms the consequence of sympathy existing between the stomach and other parts, now begin to show themselves, as pain in the head, pain in the side, sometimes mistaken for pleurisy.









and changing the secretion, we may next resort to antacids, opium, nitrate of bismuth, oil of amber, and spirits of turpentine, this last will be found particularly useful, in cases accompanying pregnancy. Palpitations may be relieved by any of the essential oils. When cephalalgia occurs periodically it will be most effectually relieved by emetics, we may also try magnesia burnt sea weed, blisters, hind fired, carbonate of ammonia. the affections of the scalp, the dolorcux &c. can only be relieved by restoring to their healthy state the digestive functions, It sometimes happens that dyspepsia will not yield to the plan detailed even though there be no organic alteration but is, merely kept up, by habit, and

then we must resort to alterative
course of mercury, to galvanism
sea voyage &c,

Having thus briefly sketched what
I conceive to be the principles which ought
to guide us in the medical treatment
of this disease, I shall only remark
that unless it be accompanied by
a well regulated diet all our efforts
will be unavailing, but if this be attend
ed to, and added to this a proper at-
tention to clothing, keeping up an agreeable
mental excitement, bodily exercise,
change of air, &c. we shall often
have the pleasure of relieving our
patients from one of the most obstin-
ate, and distressing of diseases.